

# MTSS IMPLEMENTATION TOOLKIT

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*“What is ‘implementation?’ ...implementation is defined as a specified set of activities designed to put into practice an activity or program of known dimensions. According to this definition, implementation processes are purposeful and are described in sufficient detail such that independent observers can detect the presence and strength of the “specific set of activities” related to implementation. In addition, the activity or program being implemented is described in sufficient detail so that independent observers can detect its presence and strength.”*

*(Fixsen, Naoom, Blase, Friedman, & Wallace, 2005, p. 5)*

## DOCUMENTS

**Information Brief: Developing an RTI Guidance Document**, NCRTI. This tool is based on the lessons learned from providing support to states developing guidance documents. Included in this tool are frequently asked questions about guidance documents and a template to help states, districts, and schools develop their own documents. <http://www.rti4success.org/resource/developing-rti-guidance-document>

**RTI Pilot Site Selection: Things to Consider**, NCRTI. Pilot sites often play an important part in effective RTI implementation. The information brief, RTI Pilot Site Selection: Things to Consider, guides teams through the steps of developing an RTI pilot site selection process. It provides team facilitators discussion questions that they can use to help teams examine their priorities, evaluation strategies, resources, and possible selection processes. <http://www.rti4success.org/resource/rti-pilot-site-selection-things-consider>

**Implementation: The Missing Link Between Research and Practice**, NIRN. There is a great deal of discussion about the need to revitalize the nation’s infrastructure. New roads, bridges, schools, and public buildings need to be built using the latest in green technology. Current infrastructure needs to be repaired and retrofitted. This brief makes the case that our human services infrastructure for effective implementation requires a similar investment so that effective programs and practices can be widely adopted and used to produce socially significant outcomes  
<http://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/sites/nirn.fpg.unc.edu/files/resources/NIRN-ImplementationBrief-01-2009.pdf>

**Implementation Research: A Synthesis of Literature**, National Implementation Research Center (NIRN). This monograph summarizes findings from an extensive review of the research literature on the implementation of evidence-based practices.

<http://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/sites/nirn.fpg.unc.edu/files/resources/NIRN-MonographFull-01-2005.pdf>

**Response to Intervention (RTI): Funding Questions and Answers**, NCRTI. This document provides written responses from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on the use of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds for the implementation of RTI and answers eight commonly asked questions on funding RTI.

<http://www.rti4success.org/resource/response-intervention-rti-funding-questions-and-answers>

**Implementing RTI Using Title I, Title III, and CEIS Funds: Key Issues for Decision-Makers**, US DOE. The U.S. Department of Education created this presentation to answer questions specifically about funds provided under three Federal programs: Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and funds for Coordinated Early Intervening

Services, available under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

<http://www.rti4success.org/resource/implementing-rti-using-title-i-title-iii-and-ceis-funds-key-issues-decision-makers>

**Response to Intervention: Research for Practice**, NASDE. This annotated bibliography, published by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), is a compilation of research about RTI. The topics progress from problems concerning traditional learning disability diagnostic approaches, to RTI service delivery, implementation and assessment, and conclude with areas of concern regarding RTI. A glossary of terminology is also included.

[http://www.rti4success.org/sites/default/files/Rtl\\_Bibliography2.pdf](http://www.rti4success.org/sites/default/files/Rtl_Bibliography2.pdf)

## VIDEOS

**ASK THE EXPERT: If an Elementary School is already implementing RTI in academic subjects, what is the best way for them to begin to incorporate behavior interventions?** - March 2012 (6:16). Listen to Joe Wehby respond to this question. <http://www.rti4success.org/video/if-elementary-school-already-implementing-rti-academic-subjects-what-best-way-them-begin>

**ASK THE EXPERT: How does RTI fit in with other policy initiatives?** - September 2010 (03:16). Listen as Dr. Evelyn Johnson addresses this question. <http://www.rti4success.org/video/how-does-rti-fit-other-policy-initiatives>

**ASK THE EXPERT: How can I get teachers and staff to buy in to the RTI process?** - May 2010 (02:00). Listen as Dr. Evelyn Johnson addresses this question. <http://www.rti4success.org/video/how-can-i-get-teachers-and-staff-buy-rti-process>

**ASK THE EXPERT: If I were a leader in a district and we decided we wanted to implement RTI district-wide, what would be the top three things you would encourage me to figure out first?** - April 2010 (04:59). Listen as Dr. Daryl Mellard addresses this question. <http://www.rti4success.org/video/if-i-were-leader-district-and-we-decided-we-wanted-implement-rti-district-wide-what-would-be>

**ASK THE EXPERT: We hear a lot about fidelity of implementation when talking about RTI. What does this really mean?** - March 2010 (05:17). Listen as Doug Fuchs addresses this question. <http://www.rti4success.org/video/we-hear-lot-about-fidelity-implementation-when-talking-about-rti-what-does-really-mean>

**ASK THE EXPERT: How does the RTI Framework intersect with the Common Core State Standards Initiative?** – (09:29) Listen as Winsome Waite addresses this question. <http://www.rti4success.org/video/how-does-rti-framework-intersect-common-core-state-standards-initiative>

## WEBINARS

**Planning and First Steps for RTI, NCRTI.** In this webinar, Dr. Alexandra Hilt-Panahon and Deborah Gould Stover provides examples of what planning is required before successfully implementing RTI, as well as the initial steps that should be taken when implementing RTI within schools. Examples illustrate how elementary schools have used RTI to address the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse student populations. In addition, the webinar shares how elementary schools have resolved challenges such as revising schedules and reallocating personnel to provide interventions.

<http://www.rti4success.org/video/planning-and-first-steps-rti>

**Essential Components of RTI Integrity Framework: A Tool for Monitoring and Evaluating RTI Implementation (27:21)**, NCRTI. The National Center on RTI has created a RTI Essential Components Integrity Rubric and RTI Essential Components Integrity Worksheet. Both are for use by individuals responsible for monitoring the school-level fidelity of Response to Intervention (RTI) implementation. In this webinar, Dr. Amy Elledge discusses the Integrity Rubric and Worksheet, describes them and how they can be used and gives examples from schools and districts who have utilized the tools to measure their fidelity to RTI. <http://www.rti4success.org/video/essential-components-rti-integrity-framework-tool-monitoring-and-evaluating-rti-implementation>

**We're "Doing RTI" - A Closer Look at Implementation (51:28)**, NCRTI. In this webinar Dr. Rebecca Zumeta of the National Center on RTI and Mike Jacobsen, director of assessment in RTI in Washington state's White River School district, discuss how the NCRTI's implementation integrity rubric was used in Washington state to conduct an interview process that helped the state's pilot sites evaluate their RTI implementation. The webinar highlights the rationale and purpose of this work, some prior efforts at evaluating pilot sites in the state, descriptions of the measurement tool that was developed, and the interview process in the reports that resulted. The webinar also details specifics of the implementation journey of the White River School district, one of the pilot sites in the state. <http://www.rti4success.org/video/were-doing-rti-closer-look-implementation>

**RTI Implementation: Developing Effective Schedules at the Elementary Level**, NCRTI. This 60 minute recording offers recommendations for efficient, effective, and sustainable schedules. It also addressed issues related to the development of effective schedules for the implementation of RTI at the elementary level, including the scheduling of core instruction, intervention time, team meetings, and planning. <http://www.rti4success.org/video/rti-implementation-developing-effective-schedules-elementary-level>

**Planning and First Steps for RTI (57:34)**, NCRTI. This webinar provided examples of what planning is required before successfully implementing RTI, as well as the initial steps that should be taken when implementing RTI within schools. Examples illustrated how elementary schools have used RTI to address the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse student populations. In addition, ideas were shared to show how elementary schools have resolved challenges such as revising schedules and reallocating personnel to provide interventions. <http://www.rti4success.org/webinars/video/888%20>

## TOOLS

**District RTI Capacity and Implementation Rubric and Worksheet**, NCRTI. This two part rubric and worksheet is for use by individuals responsible for monitoring (1) district level capacity to support response to intervention (RTI) implementation and (2) district-wide fidelity of RTI implementation. The purpose of this worksheet is to provide a framework for collecting relevant information and for recording a district's rating on various items related to district capacity to support district-wide implementation of RTI and the fidelity of RTI implementation. <http://www.rti4success.org/resource/district-rti-capacity-and-implementation-rubric-and-worksheet>

**Essential Components of RTI Integrity Rubric and Worksheet**, NCRTI. The RTI Essential Components Integrity Rubric and the RTI Essential Components Integrity Worksheet are for use by individuals responsible for monitoring the school-level fidelity of Response to Intervention (RTI) implementation. They may also be used by schools for self-appraisal; however, they were not designed for compliance monitoring and therefore should not be used for this purpose. The rubric and the worksheet are

designed to be used together and are aligned with the essential components of RTI.

<http://www.rti4success.org/resource/essential-components-rti-integrity-rubric-and-worksheet>

**Active Implementation Tools**, SISEP and NIRN. AI Lessons on tools are very short (5-15 minute), interactive web presentations designed to help you and your team get started and get better with Active Implementation. They focus on specific implementation tools and practices and can be viewed online for self-paced learning or used for professional development in a team setting

<http://implementation.fpg.unc.edu/modules-and-lessons>

**Scaling-Up Tools and Resources**, SISEP. The SISEP Center produces a variety of tools and resources for implementation, scaling, and system reinvention work, as well as delivers online and of-line coaching, teaching and learning. <http://sisep.fpg.unc.edu/tools-and-resources/home>

**MTSS Checklists and Forms**, RTI Action Network. This site provides sample MTSS planning forms and checklists, such as *Self-Assessment of Problem Solving Implementation* (SAPSI), treatment integrity protocols, beliefs and perceptions of MTSS skills surveys, and intervention documentation forms.

<http://www.rtinetwork.org/getstarted/checklists-and-forms>.

**Get Started: MTSS Implementation**, RTI Action Network. This online resource focuses on the necessary steps for developing a building-level plan for successful implementation of MTSS. It includes five sections: Building Support, Develop a Plan, Implement Your Plan, Evaluate and Refine, and Checklists and Forms. <http://www.rtinetwork.org/getstarted>

**Implementing District PBIS**, PBIS. The web resource outlines the district level infrastructure necessary to implement and sustain a tiered system of behavior support. Users can access tools, articles, videos, and training resources. <http://www.pbis.org/school/district-level>

## ARTICLES

**Using Technology to Enhance RtI Implementation**, RTI Action Network. Dr. Matthew Burns discusses the use of technology to enhance instruction, assessment, and parent involvement.

<http://www.rtinetwork.org/getstarted/implement/using-technology-to-enhance-rti-implementation>

**Implement Your Plan**, RTI Action Network. Dr. George Batsche provides an example 3-year RTI implementation plan based on lessons learned from large scale implementation of RTI in Florida.

<http://www.rtinetwork.org/getstarted/implement/implementyourplan>

**Evaluating and Refining Implementation**, RTI Action Network. Dr. George Batsche discusses several guiding questions that should be guiding the evaluation of RTI implementation.

<http://www.rtinetwork.org/getstarted/evaluate/refiningimplementation>

## TRAINING MODULES

**Train the Trainer Materials: Response to Intervention Implementer Series**, NCRTI. These materials are intended for use by those wishing to conduct a Training of Trainers (TOT) for the RTI Implementer Series. TOT facilitators should have knowledge of the materials provided here, the Implementer Series training module materials (e.g., PowerPoints, training manuals, and handouts), Facilitator's Guide, and related readings found on the Center's website. The three Implementer Series training modules are intended for beginning implementers of RTI and provide foundational knowledge about the essential components of RTI and to build an understanding about the importance of RTI implementation.

<http://www.rti4success.org/resource/train-trainer-materials-response-intervention-implementer-series>

**RTI Implementer Series Self-Paced Learning Modules**, NCRTI. The RTI Implementer Series Self-Paced Learning Modules is a series of 11 learning modules for implementers of Response to Intervention (RTI). The learning modules are intended to provide foundational knowledge about the essential components of RTI and to build an understanding about the importance of RTI implementation. They were adapted as self-paced and downloadable versions of the RTI Implementer Series Training Modules upon which they are based. Each module includes the learning module (live version and downloadable version), transcript, PowerPoint presentation, handouts, and the training manual (if available).  
<http://www.rti4success.org/resource/rti-implementer-series-self-paced-learning-modules>

**Developing an RTI Professional Development Plan: Things to Consider**, NCRTI. This module is designed to help participants plan effective and appropriate professional development based on research, data, and best practices. Through the module participants will increase their understanding of the necessary considerations for developing a professional development plan, increase awareness of available professional development tools, and draft a professional development plan.  
<http://www.rti4success.org/resource/developing-rti-professional-development-plan-things-consider>

**Active Implementation (AI) Modules**, SISEP and NIRN. AI Modules are short (30-45 minute) online modules designed to be self-paced, or blended with in pre-service and in-service training. They include content, activities and assessments designed to promote the knowledge and practice of implementation science and scaling-up. <http://implementation.fpg.unc.edu/modules-and-lessons>

## GENERAL WEB RESOURCES

**State Implementation & Scaling Up of Evidence Based-Practices (SISEP)**, <http://sisep.fpg.unc.edu/>  
SISEP has been working with several states on scaling up RTI, Transition Programs, and PBIS statewide. This site has numerous resources, including assessments of implementation, planning resources, and evaluation resources.

**National Implementation Research Network (NIRN)**, <http://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/>  
The mission NIRN is to contribute to the best practices and science of implementation, organization change, and system reinvention to improve outcomes across the spectrum of human services. The website provides resources and trainings materials to support implementation.

**The National Center for Response to Intervention**, <http://rti4success.org>  
The NCRTI website provides various user-friendly resources for elementary and secondary schools and districts implementing schoolwide tiered systems of support. Resources include training materials, video clips and webinars, tool charts, and access to numerous documents.

**Positive Behavior Interventions and Support**, PBIS. PBIS is a national technical assistance center that emphasizes the impact of implementing PBIS on the social, emotional and academic outcomes for students with disabilities. The website provides recorded videos and webinars, self-paced training materials, and implementation resources. <http://www.pbis.org/>

**RTI Action Network**, <http://www.rtinetwork.org/>  
This website provides information for practitioners with information on what is RTI, professional development opportunities, implementation information, and opportunities to connect with others.